GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:300
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004
PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS RESERVE IN CHHATISGARH
Jogi Shri Ajit

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ascertained any probabillity of availabillity of petroleum and Natural gas reserves in Chhatisgarh and in certain other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that geo-scientific studies have indicated a strong possibility of availabillity of Oil and Natural Gas in the above State;

(d) if so, the facts in this regards; and

(e) the time by which the Government is likely to start the exploration activities in Chhatisgarh and other States?

Answer

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj (Shri Mani Shanker Aiyar)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) in association with National Geographical Resarch Institute, Hyderabad, have carried out surface geochemical surveys covering an area of 35000 Sqaure Kilometers in Chattisgarh during 2003-04 for obtaining information about the hydrocarbon generation potential in the area. 350 soil samples have been collected. Pre-exploratory surverys (Aero-Magnetic, Magneto-Telluric, Seismic and Geochemical) have also been carried out by DGH in addition to the exploration efforts of National Oil Companies (NOCs) in various States such as Bihar, Gujarat Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh,

These surveys have led to the upgradation of our geo-scientific knowledge of basins in these States and led to the carving out of blocks for offer under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Government have offerd exploration blocks in the following States in various rounds of exploration bidding including NELP rounds. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) & (d): Based on the present geological knowledge of hydrocarbons & prospectivity, the Chhattisgarh basin is categorized a Category-IV basin i.e. a basin having uncertain hudrocarbon potential but considered to be prospective by analogy with similar basins in the world. The category may be upgraded if future exploration efforts result in discovery of hydrocarbons.

(e) As stated above, exploration work has already been initiated/ undertaken in Chhattisgarh and other States.